

CLAIMS

I claim:

5 1. A three dimensional apertured film comprising:

a first planar surface in a first imaginary plane;

a second planar surface in a second imaginary plane located below said first
imaginary plane;

a first plurality of apertures;

10 at least one member spanning each one of said first plurality of apertures to
thereby define a plurality of smaller apertures, each of said plurality of smaller apertures
in communication with a respective one of said first plurality of apertures, wherein said
member spanning each one of said apertures has a top surface located in a third
imaginary plane, said third imaginary plane being located below said first imaginary
15 plane.

2. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 1, wherein said first plurality
of apertures are defined from said first imaginary plane to said third imaginary plane.

20 3. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 1, wherein said top surface of
said member spanning each one of said plurality of apertures is substantially parallel to
said first imaginary plane and said second imaginary plane.

4. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 1, wherein said third imaginary plane is located below said first and second imaginary planes.

5. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 1, wherein said at least one member spanning each one of said plurality of apertures comprises:

a first cross member spanning each one of said plurality apertures; and

a second cross member spanning each one of said plurality of apertures.

6. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 5, wherein said first cross member intersects said second cross member.

7. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 6, wherein said first cross member and second cross member are orthogonally arranged with respect to one another.

8. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 1, wherein said apertured film has a plurality of bumps arranged on said first planar surface.

9. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 1, wherein each of said members spanning each one of said first plurality of apertures has a width in the range of about .008 mils to about .024 mils.

10. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 5, wherein said first and second cross members each have a width in the range of about .008 mils to about .024 mils.

5 11. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 1, wherein said film has an open area in the range of about 20% to about 30%.

12. A three dimensional apertured film comprising:

a first substantially planar surface located in a first imaginary plane;

10 a second substantially planar surface located in a second imaginary plane;

a plurality of interconnected frame portions, each of said frame portions having at least first and second interior walls arranged in opposed spaced relationship to one another;

a plurality of cross members, each one of said cross members extending from one
15 of said interior walls of one of said frame portions to said opposed second interior wall of one of said frame portions, each of said cross members having a top surface located in a imaginary plane located below said first imaginary plane;

a plurality of apertures extending from at least said first planar surface to said second planar surface, each of said apertures being bound by at least one of said frame
20 portions and at least one of said cross members.

13. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 12, wherein said top surface of each one of said cross members is substantially parallel to said first imaginary plane and said second imaginary plane.

5 14. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 13, wherein said top surface of each one of said cross members is located in a third imaginary plane below said first imaginary plane and said second imaginary plane.

15. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 12, wherein each of said
10 frame portions includes a opposed spaced end regions and opposed spaced side walls.

16. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 15, wherein said plurality of cross members comprises:

a first plurality of cross members, each one of said first plurality of cross
15 members extending from one of said end regions of said frame to an opposed end region of said frame; and

a second plurality of cross members, each one of said second plurality of cross members extending from one of said side walls of said frame to an opposed side wall of said frame.

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17. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 16, wherein each of said first plurality of cross members intersects with one of said second plurality of cross members.

18. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 17, wherein each of said first plurality of cross members is orthogonally arranged with respect to one of said second plurality of cross members.

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19. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 12, wherein each of said frame portions is substantially a hexagon in shape.

20. The three dimensional film according to claim 12, further comprising:

10 a plurality of bumps extending upwardly from said first planar surface of said film.

21. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 12, wherein said film has an open area in the range of about 20% to about 30%.

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22. A three dimensional apertured film comprising:

a first planar surface in a first imaginary plane;

a second planar surface in a second imaginary plane;

a plurality of apertures extending at least from said first planar surface to said

20 second planar surface;

at least one member spanning each one of said plurality of apertures, wherein said member spanning each one of said apertures has a top surface located in a third

imaginary plane, said third imaginary plane being located below said first imaginary plane.

23. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 22, wherein said top surface
5 of said member spanning each one of said plurality of apertures is substantially parallel to said first imaginary plane and said second imaginary plane.

24. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 22, wherein said third
10 imaginary plane is located below said first and second imaginary planes.

25. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 22, wherein said at least one
member spanning each one of said plurality of apertures comprises:

- a first cross member spanning each one of said plurality apertures; and
- a second cross member spanning each one of said plurality of apertures.

26. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 25, wherein said first cross
15 member intersects said second cross member.

27. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 26, wherein said first cross
20 member and second cross member are orthogonally arranged with respect to one another.

28. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 22, wherein said apertured
film has a plurality of bumps arranged on said first planar surface.

29. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 22, wherein each of said members spanning each one of said first plurality of apertures has a width in the range of about .008 mils to about .024 mils.

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30. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 25, wherein said first and second cross members each have a width in the range of about .008 mils to about .024 mils.

10 31. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 22, wherein said film has an open area in the range of about 20% to about 30%.

32. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 1, wherein said apertured film is a cover layer in an absorbent article.

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33. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 12, wherein said apertured film is a cover layer in an absorbent article.

34. The three dimensional apertured film according to claim 22, wherein said apertured

20 film is a cover layer in an absorbent article.